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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KUWAIT 003604

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, AUGUST 2-4: ANNIVERSARY OF  
IRAQI INVASION; GUANTANAMO DETAINEES; 9/11 REPORT; AMERICAN  
AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT

REF: Kuwait 03267

[11.](#) SUMMARY: Some commentators see the August 2 anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as a reminder of Iraqi reparations still due to Kuwait and the POWs still unaccounted for, while others evince a desire to move forward with reforms and national development now that this external threat has been lifted.

All newspapers report a statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Al-Sabah that the U.S. and Kuwait are holding talks on Kuwaiti detainees at Guantanamo Bay. One Islamist commentator demands greater government efforts to win the release of the detainees. Another Islamist sees "Zionist lobbyists" as behind the 9/11 report that reflects an "American campaign against Saudi Arabia."

A conservative writer directs another in a series of critical comments (reftel) against American Ambassador to Kuwait Richard H. Jones, accusing the Ambassador of "unjustifiable interference in our affairs in a repugnant and provoking manner" through the Ambassador's attendance at local social events and his newspaper interviews. END SUMMARY.

[12.](#) News Stories: All newspapers report on August 4 statements by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Al-Sabah that Kuwait and the US are holding talks regarding the Kuwaiti detainees held at Guantanamo Bay.

Al-Anba reports on August 3 that "a number" of RPGs were fired from the Iraqi side of the border into Kuwait. No casualties were reported. Al-Anba also reports that eight "spies" have been arrested in recent days as the result of intelligence gained from captured Iraqi documents.

On August 4, all newspapers report that the remains of two more Kuwaiti POWs found in Iraq have been identified. All papers also report that a team will begin searching for remains of Kuwaiti POWs that may have been buried in Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation of 1990-91.

Al-Seyassah reports that Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad has asked the Minister of Interior to prepare a list of "bedoons" (stateless residents in Kuwait) that should be considered for naturalization.

The President of Kuwait University, Dr. Nader Al-Jallal, states that the university is on the way to fully implementing gender segregation in all its colleges, Al-Qabas reports.

Editorials:

[13.](#) "August 2, 1990 is Like No Other Date"  
Editor-in-chief of independent Al-Rai Al-Aam, Jassim Boodai, opined (8/2): "August 2, 1990 was a day that changed the lives of Kuwaitis and caused an earthquake in the region. This has changed since April 9, 2003, because Iraqis are living a different life now. As for Kuwait, our priorities must also change. We demand to put an end to our political, economical and psychological suffering because it is not appropriate any longer to hold on to our obsession with security to the detriment of other issues. We should benefit from the fall of Saddam by launching major political reforms that could lead Kuwait to assume a high role in international relations."

[14.](#) "This Memory is Behind Us"  
Editor-in-chief of independent Al-Qabas, Waleed Al-Nesf, opined (8/2): "For the first time ever, August 2, 1990 is behind us. Nevertheless, we still have many lessons to learn, and most of our problems have not yet been solved. Now that the Iraqi regime has ended, we have to turn a new page by focusing on our economic development and other

important issues.

15. "In Order Not to Forget"

Editor-in-chief of independent Al-Anba, Bibi Al-Marzouk opined (8/2): "We will not forget [the Iraqi invasion of 1990] because our demands are still on the table, awaiting an Iraqi government. We will only forget if the Iraqis begin to recognize our borders and sovereignty. We demand a change in their educational curricula because Iraqi students still believe that Kuwait is part of Iraq. We will only forget if they fully compensate us [through reparations as a result of the invasion] because this is our right. We will only forget once we know the fate of our POWs. We will only forget when the Iraqi government apologizes for the crimes committed against us. Once all these terms have been met, then we will forget."

16. Conservative Dr. Sami Khalifa wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (8/2): "I am astonished at the American Ambassador who intervenes in our internal affairs by ignoring all diplomatic norms and traditions which he should respect. He does not miss an opportunity to participate in a press interview, diwaniya calls, cultural forums, or social events and unjustifiably interfere in a repugnant and provoking manner. Will the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have a word with this Ambassador?"

17. "[National Assembly Speaker] Al-Kharafi Exploded in the Face of Americans"

Islamist Mohammad Al-Awadi wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (8/2): "Not too long ago, the government unjustifiably retracted its efforts to demand the return of our detainees from Guantanamo despite Kuwait's role in supporting the Americans in the war to liberate Iraq. Kuwait opened its air space and its land, and exposed itself to many dangers for the America forces as a result. The Kuwaiti government must exploit this situation by demanding from Washington the release of our detainees in Guantanamo."

18. "The Secret Behind the Attack on Saudi Arabia"

Islamist Dr. Wael Al-Hasawi wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (7/31): "I do not know the reason for the American campaign against Saudi Arabia and I do not know on what grounds reports are being published alleging the Kingdom's involvement in the September 11 attacks. Reason and logic indicates that it would be impossible for Saudi Arabia to hurt the US. Moreover, the Saudi-American relationship has been strong since the establishment of the kingdom. I don't have an answer, except to look to the Zionist lobby which controls State Department policy and thinks differently from how sensible Americans think."

19. "Is America Going to Stay in the Gulf?"

Dr. Hisham Al-Awadi wrote in independent Al-Watan (8/1): "[T]he absence of Saddam and the achievement of stability in Iraq may raise complicated questions over the future of the American existence in the region. Iraqis have raised these questions openly, while the people of the Gulf are asking the same questions secretly. The justification for an American presence is gradually disappearing. Unless the US justifies its presence in the region, one can expect this part of the world to enter into a new period of security tensions."

JONES